



A STUDY ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS AMONGST THE RESIDENTS OF RURAL AREAS OF DISTRICT LUDHIANA

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ABSTRACT

The investigator conducts the present study entitled "A study on waste management awareness amongst the residents of rural areas of district Ludhiana" to know how people of rural areas manage their household waste and to know whether they know the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Survey method has been adopted to conduct the study. A sample of 260 persons from five villages has been selected randomly. Self-constructed questionnaire is used to collect the data and percentages of the responses are calculated and results are drawn.

KEYWORDS: Waste, Management, Residents, Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

One of the world's most emerging problems is waste disposal. Every nation on earth seems to have difficulty dealing with their solid waste. Waste management is the process of managing solid wastes and offers range of solutions for reprocessing items that don't belong to junk. It is about how waste can be used as a valuable source following its management. Waste management is something that each and every establishment needs whether it is domestic or commercial. In simple words waste management is disposal of the products and substances that one has used in a safe and efficient manner and in possible productive manner. At the time of evolution the waste production was minimal due to lesser exploitation of natural resources and was self-manageable due to its organic nature, with the advancement and beginning of new era of industrialization the waste production started to grow and now we are at a stage when it has become a major concern of the world. The waste produced in the modern world is not as simple as it was in the primitive world so is its management.

Waste can be majorly classified into two types i.e. liquid waste and solid waste. Both of them could be dangerous. Liquid and solid waste types can further be grouped into re-usable, organic, and recyclable waste. Wikipedia defined Waste management as the production, prevention, monitoring, treatment, management, reuse and left over disposition of solid wastes. A number of types of solid waste like residential, institutional, commercial, agricultural, and health care, household hazardous wastes, sewage sludge etc. are produced daily. There are several procedures of waste management ranging from reduction and reuse, recycling, animal feeding, composting, to fermentation, landfills and incineration. Simple procedures can be used at house hold level as least skills and tools required where as some procedures need special trainings, handling and proper equipment.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Inadequately managed waste can be a major threat to society. Every living organism on earth creates waste, but the most intelligent known species on earth i.e. human beings create far more waste than other species. Safe and efficient handling of waste is very important to avoid damage of earth's ecosystems and preserve a high quality of life for the planet's natives. One of the most important key factors that contribute to the generation of municipal solid waste, industrial, hazardous waste and biomedical waste is uncontrolled increase in population. Further the unhygienic methods adopted for disposal of these solid wastes is a serious health concern with vital environmental, social and health costs related with it. Open discarding of garbage facilitates the breeding of disease vectors like mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, and other pests etc. The poorly maintained landfill sites further, are inclined to groundwater pollution because of leachate production. Most of the people living in rural areas are less aware about the implications of improper waste management. These are some of the factors that prompted the investigator to take up the present study.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To know the level of awareness of people of rural areas on waste management.

METHODOLOGY

Survey method was adopted to conduct the study.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted on the people of five villages of district Ludhiana. Sarpanch of each village was contacted personally to inform about the survey and to make him aware of waste management methods to keep the village pollution free. To know about how people manage their solid wastes, a self-constructed questionnaire followed by interview were administered individually on the sample selected for the study. The data was collected personally. Percentages of responses were calculated to reach the conclusions.

SAMPLE

A sample of 260 rural people was selected randomly from five villages of district Ludhiana.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study was delimited to the rural areas of district Ludhiana only.
- The study was also delimited to only five villages of district Ludhiana.
- The study was also delimited to waste management of only solid types of wastes.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table1: Showing the demographic information of the sample.

Total sample	Male	Female
N=260	60	200

Results of the survey showed that 57 % of the sample agreed that they throw their garbage and other wastes in open. 74% said they do not even know the harmful effects of throwing the garbage in the open. On asking about bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, 56% were found aware of the meaning of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Only 13% of the sample mentioned that their villages had a decompost pit to throw the solid wastes in it. On asking that if they wanted to get information about the waste management methods or types of wastes, only 65% showed interest in getting such type of information. Rest of them were not even interested to get the information.

CONCLUSION

Thus the survey showed that most of the people in rural areas of Ludhiana district were not aware of any waste management methods. They were found throwing their wastes in open leading the environment polluted. The government and other stakeholders must take some steps to this side to keep the environment safe and healthy. People must start this initiative at their own level before it gets too late. Every citizen is now in search of clear and pleasing atmosphere. The pollution problem has grown immensely in the recent years due to unprofessional waste discarding. Those call for separate efforts of not only the civic administration but participation of several responsibilities public groups and industrial lists. Community must understand that domestic garbage generation can be recycled and reused to avert creation of waste at sources and reducing amount of waste thrown into the community dustbins or in open.

There are plenty of important things that everyone should know about waste managing and discarding in order to ensure that they are safe, as well as that they are keeping the environment safe. It is their choice as to how they will dispose of waste, however it is always in their best interest to take a look at all of the options that they have available before making the choice. They range from simply throwing waste in the trash to reprocessing to turning that waste into a useful resource. Rather than throwing everything away to the landfill, people must consider other waste disposal procedures. In doing so, people will cut down on the amount of trash they make, and with techniques like composting etc. they may end up with something usable because of it.

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